

Fall 2018 Newsletter Erin United Church



photo by Dennis Hancock

NEW CHURCH TIMES ESTABLISHED :

Ballinifad United Church.....9:15 am

Erin United Church10:30 am

6th Annual
**Spiritual Practices
Retreat**
A day dedicated to Your Mind, Body & Soul

Saturday October 13th, 2018
9am to 4pm
8:30am Gathering & Refreshments

Scott Mission Retreat Centre
3852 The Grange Sideroad, Caledon

Workshops:
Soulful Singing, Sacred Circle Dance, Nia, Gentle Yoga
Forest Therapy-Contemplative Walk, Introduction to
Tai Chi, Meditation, Native Wisdom and Drumming, Social Justice as
a Spiritual Practice

\$50-includes three Workshops
Bring a brown bag lunch. Refreshments and Childcare Provided

*For More Information and to
Register Contact:*
905.843.1035 or
secretary@mayfieldunitedchurch.org



GIFT is a group of
United Churches
located in Peel,
Wellington and
Dufferin
working together.

An Invitation to Join Me in Exploring Spiritual Practices
~ from your Minister, Rev. Felicia Urbanski

I'm pleased to be a part of a group of United Churches who organize an annual retreat that focuses on developing our minds, bodies and souls in such a beautiful natural setting! The GIFT group is about "Growing In Faith Together". What better way than to explore various spiritual practices – all of which offer us a way to seek a deeper connection with the Holy Mystery which we call God. Won't you join me on Saturday October 13th? It is easy to register by phone or by emailing the secretary at Mayfield United Church. And it's so much fun to meet people from many of our area United churches. We have so much in common! Three amazing workshops are \$50, but you are welcome to contact me if the cost could prohibit you from attending. There is so much more to finding spiritual fulfillment than just Sunday mornings. Perhaps this is the experience you've been seeking! I hope you will consider attending this year. Many Blessings!

Upcoming Events

Mark Your Calendar for the following church events....

<p>Fri Oct 5-Mon Oct 8th ERIN FALL FAIR BOOTH</p>	<p>Join us on Thanksgiving Weekend at our Fair Booth. Thanks to all for your help in the booth, pies, and/or donations to the Butter Tart fund! Call Vida at (519) 833-2273 if you wish to support this venture in any way.</p>
<p>Sat., Oct 20th 2-4 pm at Ballinifad United Church</p>	<p>Ballinifad October Fashion Show & Tea</p>
<p>Sunday Oct 28th</p>	<p>Rosemary Davison will be leading our service while Rev. Felicia is away. She is really looking forward to seeing everyone.</p>
<p>Tuesday Oct 30th</p>	<p>Vida and Doug will once again be kicking off our Tuesday Luncheon schedule. For \$4.00 you can enjoy homemade soup, sandwiches, dessert and a beverage every Tuesday at 12:00. It is the best deal in town!</p>
<p>Saturday Nov 17th Ballinifad United Church</p>	<p>Violin/Piano Recital & Community Dinner featuring Felicia Urbanski and Emily Morrison</p>
<p>Friday, Nov 23rd</p>	<p>Our church will once again be offering our Turkey Dinner and Silent Auction. Seating will be at 5, 6, or 7 pm with "take-out" meals available. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$8 for children. Order your tickets early by contacting Cindy Storey at (519) 833-9808 or by e-mailing</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>c_storey@sympatico.ca</p> </div>
<p>Saturday Dec 1st</p>	<p>Prepare for the Christmas season by attending our Mistletoe Craft and Bake Sale. There will be a wonderful selection of goodies and gifts for you and your family!</p>

Monday Dec 24th Join us for our **Candlelight Christmas Eve service**. Time to be confirmed.

Please consider PAR as a convenient way to have your offerings support the church and supply a reliable income for our congregation. Opting in or out is a quick process with proper notification. Contact Linda Johnson for more information on this program. linda.johnson01@outlook.com

ACTIVITY SINCE OUR MARCH 28, 2018 SPRING NEWSLETTER

He is the son of the late Rev. T.J. Rees, who served Erin United from 1941-1946. His son Roland came to RibFest June 9th!

Next newsletter will contain a full "year in review" 2018



MENTOR & METALSMITH

The Silver Art of Arthur Brecken & Wesley Harris

A TOURING EXHIBITION IN TRIBUTE TO

AN EXTRAORDINARY TEACHER

Wellington County Museum & Archives Gallery

Fergus, Ontario **Sept. 9 – Oct. 28, 2018**

The following are snippets of memories of Arthur as related by various people in the book,

“FROM WEDGEWOOD COTTAGE...” The Life and Art of Arthur LeRoy Brecken, written by Wendy Cooper-Parkinson. Wellington County Historical Society Fergus, Ontario

The Foreword in the book was written by Wesley Harris which includes in part:

“Arthur Brecken touched the lives of many people. He taught art in his home for free, gave generously of his time, and loved doing so for nearly fifty years. Even when he taught at Erin District High School (EDHS), he worked full-time for minimal pay since he was not “qualified” as an art teacher! His influence as a teacher is impossible to measure, but it is important that others know about it. It is also important that others know about the man – his humility and simplicity, his kindness, generosity and humour, his formative years in China, and his Christian faith. He was a unique individual—an inspiration.”

November 1st, 1915 - January 27th, 2003. Arthur LeRoy Brecken passed away after living 88 years filled with passion, purpose and a quest to learn more.

Vida May (Overland) and The Reverend Egerton Brecken arrived home in 1915, from seven years of missionary work at the Methodist University in Chengdu China and Arthur LeRoy Brecken was born on Nov. 1st of that same year. The family stayed at the Overland home (Vida’s family home) at 170 Main St. in Erin.

The coming year, 1916 proved to be a busy one, as a nine-year teaching term at the University was confirmed. Their return to China included six-month old baby Arthur and they boarded the ship for Chengdu.

Nine years of living in Chengdu did much to shape young Arthur. To quote his thoughts on their influence, “My unique circumstances gave me a complete immersion into the Oriental way of life. I had no way of knowing what other cultures existed during my stay in China. It was a great shock when I returned to Canada and the time for me to adjust was lengthy.”

As a young boy Arthur spent many hours each day, writing with his own special brush and paper. Quiet time practicing the Chinese characters, where discipline and control were valued and expected, provided the foundation for the bold, confident and stylish penmanship he later became known for. The Oriental philosophy in tandem with his family’s deep Christian faith formed what became the backbone of Arthur’s value system.

The way he lived his adult life reflected his understanding of and commitment to physical, intellectual and spiritual harmony.

It took almost a year for the Brecken family to return to Erin. The six-week voyage from Shanghai to Liverpool came complete with stopovers in ports from Ceylon to Liverpool. Time spent in London while his father took a course at Oxford introduced Arthur to modern luxuries. Arthur had fun along the way, but as he was quick to remember later, “the voyage west was anchored by discipline and manners.”

The return in 1924 to Erin coincided with the opening of the Erin Public School. Arthur was one of the first students to attend the brand-new school. It was also a very important time, as Arthur's only sibling, a sister named Grace was born at 170 Main Street.

The year was 1933 when Arthur joined his parents in Sackville, New Brunswick where his father had been lecturing as a Professor of Theology at Mount Allison University since 1930. While still a teenager, Arthur made and created artwork, some of which he sold during the depression. Arthur's dad was quick to point out that he needed to learn something of a business nature, and commerce it was. Art, although of interest to young Arthur and appreciated by his father was still seen as a hobby.

By 1940 he had graduated from the Owens Museum of Fine and Applied Arts program at Mount Allison. Arthur graduated with a degree in Applied Art, which emphasized learning and applying techniques in metals, wood carving, leather tooling, and stone sculpture. Basic studies in drawing, painting and architectural rendering were also included.

In 1941 Arthur went for army training and service at Camp Suffield in Southeastern Alberta. He talked very little of his time in Suffield, but the elements of discipline and teamwork, which form the backbone of the army, were also treasured elements of his time in the Orient. Six years of war service ended and Arthur returned to Sackville, New Brunswick, eager to resume his life there. His father, the Reverend Egerton, died in 1943. Arthur and his mother Vida May, who missed her childhood home, returned to 170 Main St. in Erin.

In 1956 Arthur purchased the house at 199 Main Street. It too was an Overland house, built in 1854, and the builder was Charles Overland, Vida May's grandfather.

Arthur began to add his own special touches to the gardens where the influence of his Chinese immersion became obvious. Water, hills, slopes, pathways, quiet corners, they all contributed to a living and breathing three-dimensional work of art. The interior of the house was also unique. He designed and built his own furniture, created a Chinese red and gold ceiling with painted planks and finials and decorated with his own copper etched serving trays and hand carved trunk. This was definitely Arthur's home!

He and Vida quickly resumed their Church life by attending Erin United Church and as would become a tradition, Arthur walked to Church every Sunday and sat in the back pew. By 1954 Arthur was Sunday School Superintendent, a position he held for seven years. He continued to serve in this capacity for another two years in 1979. The Church offered sanctuary and connection on both spiritual

and social levels. He participated in many Church functions including the Tri-M club. “The young married people wanted to start a couple’s club around 1957 but didn’t want to restrict only to married couples, so came up with the name Tri-M, which stood for Mr., Mrs., and Miss.” As is often the way with memories, many of them hinge on humour. As Doris Fines observed, “Most of my memories of Arthur are associated with his sense of humour. He would usually have to have his little jokes.” Doris and Arthur shared a long history of church attendance at Erin United, one that spanned more than forty years.



Rosalie Barger, Janet Panagiotu and Rick Barger at Alley & bake Sale May 26th



Richard Armstrong

EUC Staff, BOARD MEMBERS. Volunteers 2018

- MINISTER:** Felicia Urbanski
- CHAIRPERSON:** Wanda Bates
Vice Chairman: Rick Barger
- SECRETARY:** Linda Johnson
- WORSHIP & MEMBERSHIP:** Wanda Bates, Rev. Felicia Urbanski,
Marian O'Connor, Jean Lagerquist
- MINISTRY & PERSONNEL:** Allan Alls, Noreen Knight, Rosalie Barger, Julie Oates
- FINANCE:** Vida Winegarden (*Envelope Steward*), Doug Sanderson,
Linda Johnson (*PAR Contact*),
- TREASURER:** Colleen Hawes
- OUTREACH:** Linda Tupling (*cards*), Janet Panagiotou, Janice Bramham
- PROPERTY:** Norm Storey, Cindy Storey, Rick Barger, Doug Sanderson
- CHRISTIAN ED:** Church board
- PRESBYTERY REP:** Cindy Storey
- TRUSTEES:** Allan Alls, Rick Barger, Vida Winegarden, Janice Bramham
- BULLETINS:** Linda Johnson Rev. Urbanski
- NEWSLETTERS:** Dennis Hancock
- ADVOCATE CONTACT:**
- FOODBANK COLLECTIONS:** Jean Lagerquist
- MUSICAL DIRECTOR:** Jan Stapleton
- CARETAKER:** Kim Wells and Sheree Greig

Contact Information Erin United Church

Erin United Church mailing address: Box 463 Erin Ontario N0B 1T0

Church Website: www.erinunitedchurch.org

Church telephone: 519-833-9727

Email: urbanski_felicia@yahoo.com

The minister is regularly at the church on Thursday's between 1:30 and 3:00. This is a time for anyone to speak with Felicia for spiritual guidance, or someone to talk to other than family or friends in a confidential manner. She can also be reached by calling the church at 519-833-9727.

Published Sept 30th, 2018 Editor: Dennis C. Hancock

- UCW meetings 2nd Monday of each month
- A.A. Meetings Monday @ 6:30 p.m.
- TOPS Tuesdays @ 6:30 p.m.

Financial Update from the Church Board

The Board currently has a shortfall of \$15,878.00 in our operating budget as of August 31st. It is not unusual to have a substantial shortfall this time of year since many of our major fund-raisers occur in the Fall. As most of you are aware, fund-raising contributes almost 20% of our revenue annually. We encourage you to be as generous as possible with your gifts of time and resources during the next few months. With our sincere thanks!